and criminal syndicates with trans-border linkages are active on UP-Nepal border. In order to check the activities of trans-border smugglers, Pak ISI operatives, anti-social elements etc., the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have set-up Border Task Force. Government of India has also sanctioned some additional intelligence posts for keeping vigilance along the Indo-Nepal border. State Government of Uttar Pradesh has also been advised to invoke the provisions of the Religious institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1998 to prevent the misuse of such institutions along the border by anti-national elements.

ISI Activities on UP-Nepal Border

4036. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre received Intelligence warning about escalation of ISI activities on UP-Nepal border during the past nine months;

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to deal firmly with the cross border activities and infiltration in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) The Indo-Nepal border has historically been an open border with a Visa-Free Travel Regime. Recently, instances of misuse of this open border for staging terrorist activities directed against India, sponsored by Pak ISI, have come to the notice of the Government of India. In order to prevent the misuse of Indo-Nepal border by anti-India elements, the concerned agencies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Government of India are in reagular touch, both directly and through bi-lateral institutional mechanism. As a result of this cooperation several terrorist conspiracies sponsored by Pakistan have neutralised in recent years. Government of Uttar Pradesh have taken measures to strengthen policing of the Uttar Pradesh-Nepal border. Central Govenment has also sanctioned some additional intelligence posts for keeping vigilance along this border.

Deployment of BSF in Tripura

4037. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the length of international border between Tripura and Bangladesh ;

(b) what is the total strength of the Border Security Force that has been deployed in Tripura to guard the border and how does it compare with J & K deployment ;

(c) whether that strength is adequate to guard the border effectively;

(d) whether State Government of Tripura has made any request to deploy additional companies of Border Security Force in the State especially in view of the insurgent activities being carried on in the State with shelter across the border ; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) The total length of international border with Bangladesh adjoining Tripura is 856 kms.

(b) and (c) As against the authorised strength of 11 battalions of Border Security Force for Tripura-Bangladesh border, 9 battalions are presently deployed on this border. The restoration of 2 battalions which have been temporarily withdrawn from Tripura for counter insurgency operations in Manipur will adequately strengthen the deployment of BSF on Tripura-Bangladesh border. 7 Battalions of Border Security Force are deployed for guarding 187.5 kms. of international border in Jammu.

(d) and (e) Government of Tripura has been requesting for deployment of additional para military forces in the State. The levels of deployment of Central Para Military Forces (CPMF), including Border Security Force, in N.E. States depend upon the overall security scenario and the availability of these forces. Accordingly units of CPMF have been made available to Government of Tripura. In addition, one India Reserve Battalion has recently been sanctioned for Tripura. Induction of further additional forces into Tripura at this instant is constrained by the pressing commitments in other parts of the country. Government of Tripura has, however, been advised to review the deployment and functioning of the available forces in the State to optimize their effectiveness.